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SAFO-8753

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22 August 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Project Director

SUBJECT : Comments on USAF U-2 Follow On Program

REFERENCE : A. Project Director's Memorandum, dated 26 July 1956,  
Concerning Project Participation in USAF U-2 Follow  
On Program

B. Memorandum from Project Security Officer to Project  
Director of Administration, dated 14 August 1956,  
Subject: USAF U-2 Follow On Program (Attached)

1. The majority of my comments on your outline of the USAF U-2 follow on program concern themselves with matters directly or indirectly related to maintenance of basic security, a subject which [ ] has covered in expanded form in Reference B. I do not feel that it is appropriate for me to duplicate his remarks, although I wish to expound on certain of them in this paper.

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2. In particular, I am interested in the suggestion made in Paragraph 5, Reference B, to the effect that the working interrelationship of our two programs might particularly be improved by the designation of someone from Project Headquarters to serve as a liaison point between ourselves and SAC in Omaha. As far as I have been able to determine, the Air Force program has thus far been something of a neglected orphan. Reports reaching me indicate that the amount of information that the SAC group has thus far received concerning operational and administrative techniques of Project AQUATONE is negligible. The SAC group appears to have been operating somewhat in a vacuum, and, if they are to profit from the experience in the utilization of this vehicle, I feel that we must get a great deal closer to them than we now are.

3. As an example of the gap between us, I need only cite the difficulties of the past week concerned with receiving in this Headquarters accurate and timely information regarding the size and composition of the initial group that will be tenanted at [ ] after the departure of Detachment C. Our communications with Omaha have been sporadic in this matter and have been channeled in two, sometimes contradictory, directions, i.e., from the Project Headquarters to Colonel Geary to Colonel Yancey at [ ] and from Yancey to [ ]. On other occasions, the flow of information is from [ ] to Colonel Geary to Project Headquarters, cutting Colonel Yancey out of the cycle.

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4. I am not as certain as [ ] appears to be about the need for a task force at McDill Air Force Base after the arrival of the SAC contingent there, but I do feel that, in order to preserve the character of our operation, we should seriously consider a closer monitoring pro-

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from this Headquarters of the unit at McDill, and I believe that we should, wherever possible, give them closer policy guidance; for example, unless closely guided, this unit at McDill might easily become such a de facto declassified activity that our own security could be jeopardized. I am sure that we have encountered and solved problems regarding the aircraft and its basic components which will be the same problems of this group in their early stages. Unless we are prepared to give them wholeheartedly the benefit of our experience, the aircraft could easily become something less than a credit to both manufacturer and the Air Force itself.

5. In view of [ ] wide coverage of the U-2 fellow on program, I cannot add anything but emphasis to what has already been said, but the main impression which I have at the moment of the relationship between the SAC program and our own is that we are too far away from them physically and technically for the good of either party, and I am sure that we must discontinue our attitude that their activity is some sort of a necessary evil. If there is any way in which you feel that the Project Administrative Staff can effectuate this suggested closer relationship with SAC, we stand ready to do your bidding.

JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.  
Project Director for Administration  
PCB/DCI

Attachment

JAC/alh

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